

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-42 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 17-19, 21, and 42 have been amended.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by James, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,841,989; hereinafter "James"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 as amended teaches a method of communicating between functional blocks that includes **decoding** the packet. Applicants respectfully submit that James does not disclose decoding a packet. The Examiner argued that James "must decode the packet at least enough to interpret the address information" (Office Action, p. 14, section 7). However, Applicants respectfully submit that James does not even mention "decode" or any similar term. According to James, a consumer **recognizes** and removes the packet and substitutes a smaller acknowledge packet in its place, addressed to the original producer (James, col. 2, lines 12-14; emphasis added). James further discloses that the consumer in James merely **compares** the target ID in the packet to recognize the packet (James, col. 5, lines 56-59). Applicants respectfully submit that recognizing a packet and comparing the target ID are distinct and separate from decoding the packet. Moreover, recognizing the packet does not imply decoding the packet because recognizing the packet does not necessarily include decoding the packet. As disclosed by James, the consumer in James merely compares the target ID in the packet to recognize the packet. The consumer in James does not decode the packet. Therefore, James does not anticipate claim 1 for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Furthermore, claim 1 as amended sets forth decoding the packet to extract **configuration information** and utilizing the configuration information to **configure one of the functional blocks**. It is respectfully submitted that James does not disclose

decoding the packet to extract configuration information and utilizing the configuration information to configure one of the functional blocks. Therefore, James does not anticipate claim 1 for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Claims 2-10 depend, directly and indirectly, from claim 1. Therefore, James does not anticipate claims 2-10 for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

Claim 17 teaches a first target and a second target, each including a control that comprises a **decoder**. For the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1, James does not disclose decoding a packet, and thus, James does not disclose a decoder. Therefore, James does not anticipate claim 17 for at least this reason. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Furthermore, claim 17 as amended sets forth a first ring connection coupling the ring interface of the first master to the ring interface of the first target to pass a plurality of packets to the first target **to configure the first target**, a second ring connection coupling the ring interface of the first target to the ring interface of the second target to pass the plurality of packets to the second target **to configure the second target**, and a third ring connection coupling the ring interface of the second target to the ring interface of the first master to pass the plurality of packets from the second target to the first master. In contrast, James fails to disclose the limitation recited above. James merely discloses the transmission of data packets in a serial interconnect or a point-to-point architecture (James, col. 4, lines 48-50). Therefore, James does not anticipate claim 17 for at least this reason. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Claims 18-19 depend, directly and indirectly, from claim 17. Therefore, James does not anticipate claims 18-19 for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 17. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James in view of Christiansen et al. (U.S. 5,983,302; hereinafter, "Christiansen"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Claims 11-16 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. For the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, claims 11-16 are patentable over James in view of Christiansen because Christiansen does not make up the deficiencies of James. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 17 because claim 20 depends indirectly from claim 17. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 21-25, 27-29, 31-35, and 37-41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James in view of Christiansen, further in view of PCI Local Bus Specification (hereinafter, "PCI Specification"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 21 as amended sets forth a ring coupled to the first master, the first target, and the second target, the ring comprising a packet valid line configured to indicate whether a valid packet is being transmitted on the ring **such that configuration information originated from the first master is passed to the first and second targets via the ring to configure the first and second targets**. It is respectfully submitted that none of James, Christiansen, and PCI Specification discloses that configuration information originated from the first master is pass to the first and second targets via the ring to configure the first and second targets. Therefore, claim 21 as amended is patentable over James, in view of Christiansen, further in view of PCI Specification. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-25, 27-29, 31-35, and 37-41 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 21. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 21, claims 22-29, and

31-41 are patentable over James, in view of Christiansen, further in view of PCI Specification. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

The Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James, in view of Christiansen, further in view of PCI Specification, and further in view of Desyllas et al. (U.S. 4,697,268; hereinafter, "Desyllas"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 26 depends indirectly from claim 21. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 21, claim 26 is patentable over James, in view of Christiansen, further in view of PCI Specification, and further in view of Desyllas because Desyllas fails to make up the deficiencies of James, Christiansen, and PCI Specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James, further in view of Christiansen, PCI Specification, and Hartmann et al. (U.S. 6,047,002; hereinafter, "Hartmann"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 36 depends indirectly from claim 21. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 21, claim 36 is patentable over James, in view of Christiansen, further in view of PCI Specification, and further in view of Hartmann because Hartmann fails to make up the deficiencies of James, Christiansen, and PCI Specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Szczepanek (U.S. 5,374,926; hereinafter "Szczepanek"), in view of Christiansen, and further in view of PCI Specification. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 42 as amended sets forth that the master originates a plurality of packets containing configuration information and passes the plurality of packets to the first and second targets via the ring **to configure the first and second targets**. In contrast, none of Szczepanek, Christiansen, and PCI Specification discloses the limitation recited above. In particular, Szczepanek is directed to increasing the range of address

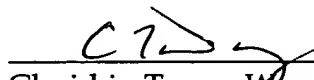
recognition capabilities in a local area network controller (Szczepanek, col. 1, lines 23-25), which is distinct and separate from configuration in an address chip within a computer system. Christiansen is directed to arbitrating control of a shared bus in a computer system (Christiansen, abstract), not configuration of an address chip within a computer system. Likewise, PCI Specification is directed to PCI buses, not configuration of an address chip within a computer system. Therefore, claim 42 as amended is patentable over Szczepanek, in view of Christiansen and PCI Specification. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) have been overcome by the amendments and the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that claims 1-29 and 31-42 as amended are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

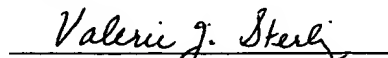
Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 10/24, 2003


Chui-kiu Teresa Wong
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 48,042

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 10-24-2003.


Valerie J. Sterling